

Good Work Practice

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Title: Human Performance Process Perspectives of Safety Inspection Trends

Date: June 28, 2006

Identifier: 2006-RL-HNF-0025

Lessons Learned Summary: Reviewing safety inspection and data and trending results from a human performance improvement (HPI) perspective expands opportunities to address what may have been hidden organizational weaknesses.

Discussion of Activities: Occupational Safety and Health analyzed manager/employee safety and housekeeping inspection reports for the calendar year and discovered frequently cited latent errors include less than adequate housekeeping and adherence to personal protective equipment (PPE) use. Statistical process control charts for safety inspections are also utilized and confirm the opportunities for improvement in housekeeping areas.

Analysis: Looking at available data from a human performance process basis provided a new perspective on the trend results. The monthly safety inspection process and other processes are working to identify issues, when corrected, increase workplace safety. Very few entries were noted as repeat items. Specific trend chart for "Percent of Safety Inspections finding PPE not stored properly or PPE not available" revealed the trend line average has been reduced from 7% to 3%.

Organizational weaknesses leading to the PPE observations are enveloped by less than adequate communication and/or enforcement of company/Project usage expectations.

Organizational weaknesses leading to housekeeping observations are enveloped by:

- 1) Work planning/scheduling not including adequate time to conduct post job clean-up,
- 2) Emergent work overcomes planned work whose material is staged or in process of being used, and

Choice of material staging/storage based upon convenience with less than adequate consideration on safety impact.

Recommendations:

- Managers who assign activities requiring personal protective equipment (PPE) must ensure employees have available and utilize PPE as prescribed.
- Those who plan work must be vigilant in incorporating time for work-site preparation and post-job clean-up.

- Those who manage work must ensure the workplace remains in a safe configuration prior to, during and following a work task where materials and equipment are involved.

Cost Savings/Avoidance: Not evaluated

Work Function: Conduct of Ops – Work Control, OSH-PPE, OSH-General

Hazards: Other

Keywords: PPE, Housekeeping, Latent Organizational Weaknesses

Originator: Fluor Hanford, Inc., Submitted by Rick Zimmerman-FHI Safety and Health

Contact: Project Hanford Lessons Learned Coordinator; (509) 372-2166; e-mail: PHMC_Lessons_Learned@rl.gov

References: None

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